

### REMARKS

Claim 17 is amended, Claim 33 is cancelled and Claim 34 is added. Claims 17-32 and 34, as amended, remain in the application. No new matter is added by the amendments to the claims.

### The Rejection:

In the Final Office Action dated January 23, 2009, the Examiner rejected Claims 17-32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conte (US 6,658,726) in view of Long (US 5,740,608).

### The Response:

Applicant cancelled Claim 33 and rewrote the subject matter as new Claim 34 dependent from Claim 26.

In support of his rejection of Claims 17-32, the Examiner stated that "Conte discloses in Fig. 1 8-11 and 22 of different cable-end processing stations"; **22** being a double crimping unit, **5, 6** provide cables and belt drives, and **7** is the swiveling arm and gripper. Fig. 8 shows a turntable with a belt drive below motor drives **46** and **47**, and **14** is a cable transportation belt. The Examiner admits that the Conte element **7** is not a sole means for holding and moving respectively the leading and trailing cable-ends of the cable length.

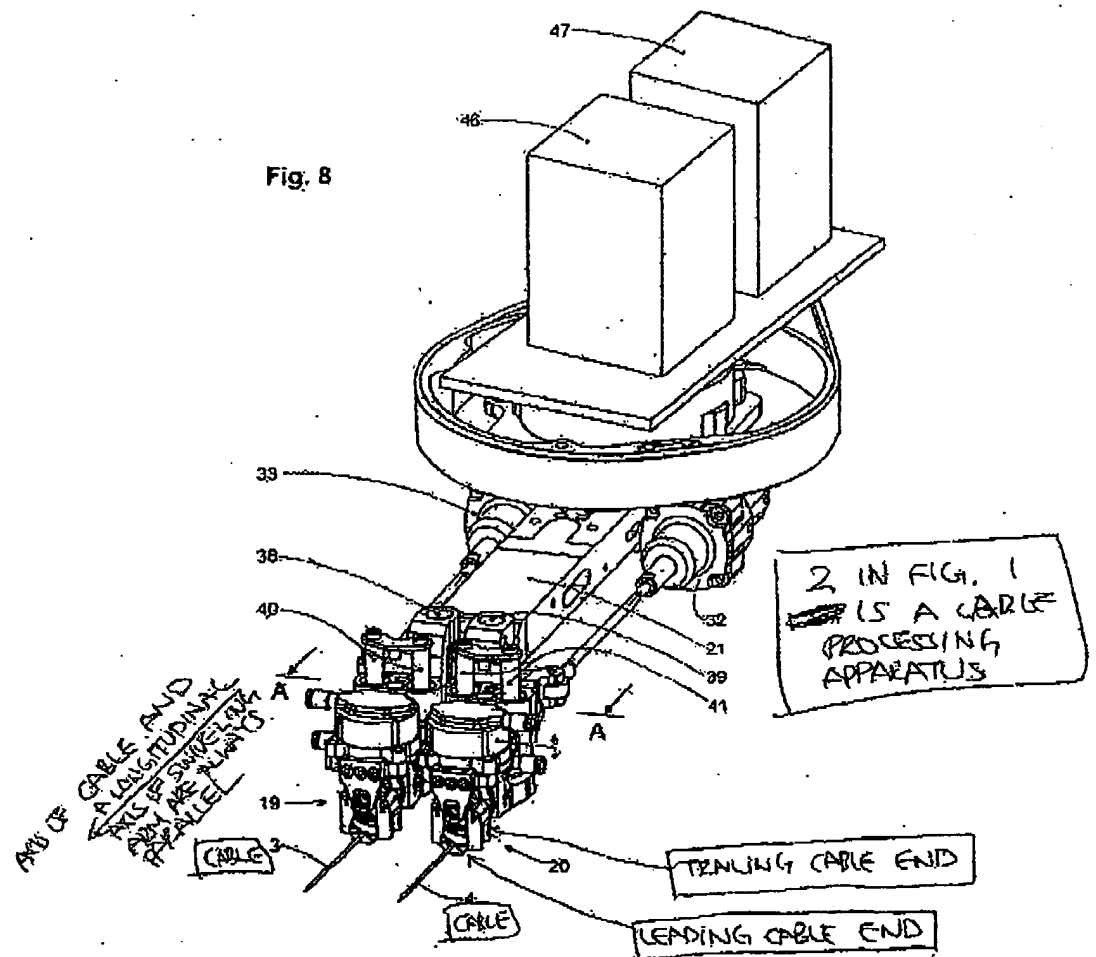
The Examiner provided an annotated copy of Conte Fig. 8 (see next page), but did not discuss any of the remarks added to the drawing. The Examiner identified a "leading cable end" and a "trailing cable end" of the cable **4**, but the associated arrows point to the gripper **20**. One need only inspect the annotated copy of Conte Fig. 5 (following Fig. 8) provided by the Examiner to see that the gripper **20** holds the central portion of the cable **4** and does not hold either the "leading cable-end" or the "trailing cable-end" much less in sequence as recited in Applicant's Claims 17 and 26.

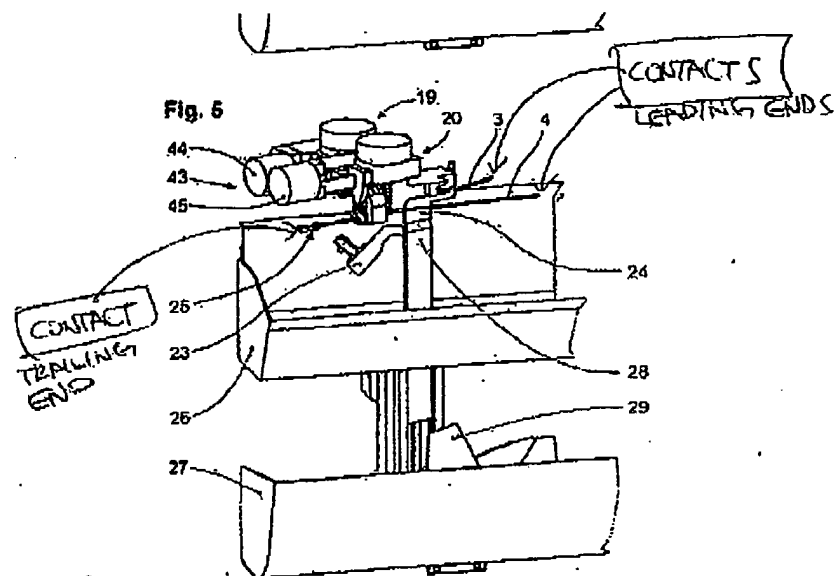
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The Examiner stated that Applicant's gripper and swiveling arm are incapable of being "a sole means for . . .". The Examiner supported this conclusion with the statement that the belt-drive 4 serves to advance a cable 5 from a reel or drum during the cutting and stripping process and the processing by at least one cable-end processing station.

Applicant's Claim 17 is amended to recite "said gripper and said swiveling arm being a sole means for holding and moving respectively the leading and trailing cable-ends of the cable-length from said cutting and stripping station and in position for processing by said at least one cable-end processing station." As shown in Applicant's Fig. 1, the belt-drive 4 moves the cable 5 to the cutting and stripping station 6 where the leading cable-end 5.1 is cut and stripped. (Page 3, Lines 17-21) The belt-drive 4 doesn't hold the leading cable-end 5.1 or the trailing cable-end 5.2 of the cable length 5.3. Once the gripper 2.2 on the swiveling arm 2.1 holds the leading cable-end 5.1 that is extending from a guide tube positioned after the belt-drive 4, the belt-drive can advance the cable 5 along the cable-line 5.4. However, only the gripper 2.2 holds and moves the leading cable-end 5.1 from the cutting and stripping station 6 and in position

for processing by the at least one cable-end processing station 3 as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Once the trailing cable-end 5.2 is cut and stripped, the cable-length 5.3 is completely free of the belt-drive 4 and only the gripper 2.2 holds and moves the trailing cable-end from the cutting and stripping station 6 and in position for processing by the at least one cable-end processing station 3 as shown in Figs. 5 and 6. Thus, the gripper 2.2 and the swiveling arm 2.1 are the sole means for holding and moving respectively the leading cable-end 5.1 and the trailing cable-end 5.2 of the cable-length 5.3 from said cutting and stripping station and in position for processing by said at least one cable-end processing station as recited in Applicant's Claim 17.

Applicant's Claim 26 recites "said swiveling arm being a sole means for moving the leading and trailing cable-ends from said cutting and stripping station to said crimping presses and away from said crimping presses." As explained above, the belt-drive 4 serves only to advance the cable 5 and does not move the cable-ends 5.1, 5.2 once they are held by the gripper 2.2.

The Examiner stated that Long discloses in Figs. 9-11 a conveyor belt 88 being a sole means for holding and moving respectively the leading and trailing cable-ends of the cable length. According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Conte by providing a sole means for holding and moving respectively the leading and trailing cable-ends of the cable length, as taught by Long, for the purpose of making and stacking electrical leads. According to the Examiner, the test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into the structure of the primary reference; nor is it that the claimed invention must be expressly suggested in any one or all of the references. Rather, the test is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981).

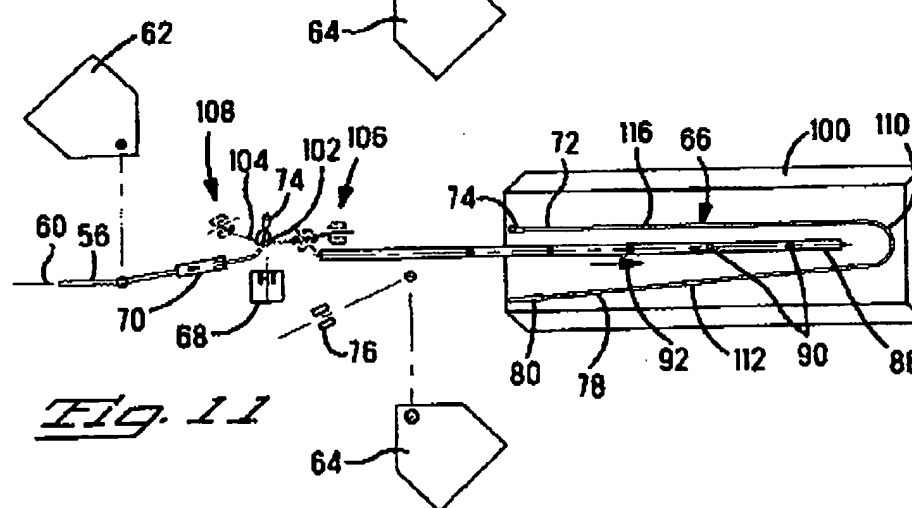
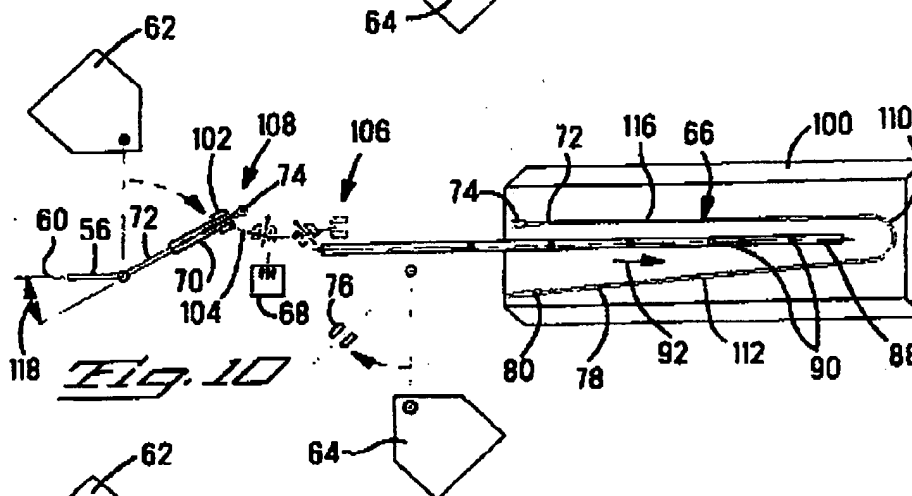
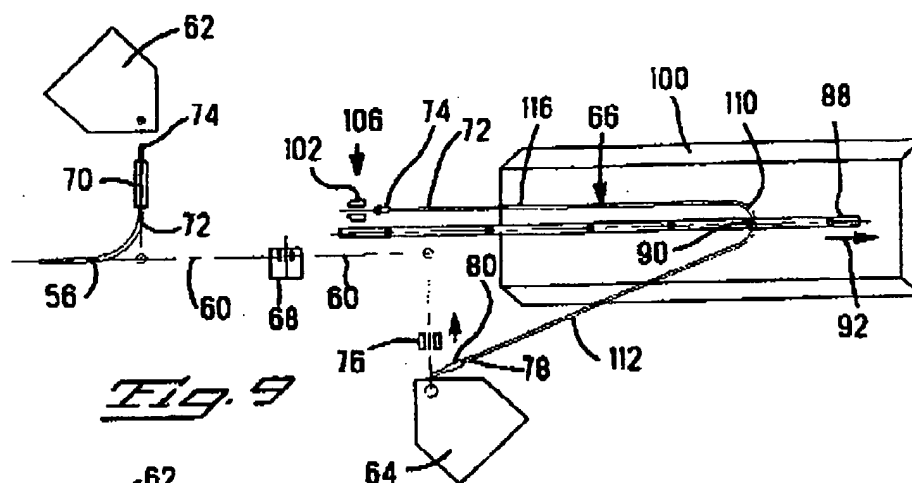
Figs. 9-11 of Long are reproduced on the following page.

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The Long machine for making electrical leads **66** has a feed side terminator **62**, an ejection side terminator **64** and a wire cutting and stripping unit **68**. A feed side clamp **70** grips the first end **72** of the wire **56**, after the cutting and stripping unit **68** has cut and stripped the wire, and transfers the first end to the feed side terminator **62** for attachment of a terminal **74**. An eject side clamp **76** grips the second end **78** of the wire **56**, after the cutting and stripping unit **68** has cut and stripped the wire, and transfers the second end to the eject side terminator **64** for attachment of a terminal **80** to finish the lead **66**. After the lead **66** is finished, a clamp **102** grips the first end **72** and bends the lead **66** to form a U-shaped portion **110** in the middle. The U-shaped portion **110** is then contacted by one of the projections **90** on the conveyor belt **88** to be transported to a stacking tray **100**.

The Long conveyor belt **88** performs the same function as the Conte conveyor belt **14**. Both conveyor belts transport a finished cable after processing away from the cable processing unit. The Long conveyor belt **88** and the Conte conveyor belt **14** do not hold the leading and trailing cable-ends of the cable length. In each case the ends of the cable are free. As is clearly seen in Long Fig. 3, the first end **72** and the second end **78** rest on the upper surface of the stacking tray **100** and do not contact the conveyor belt **88** at all. Prior to that, the ends of the cable length **66** hang freely on opposite sides of the conveyor belt **88** as shown in Fig. 5 of Long.

Since the Long conveyor belt **88** and the Conte conveyor belt **14** perform the same function, Long only suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the Conte conveyor belt **14** with the Long conveyor belt **88** to perform the same function. There is no combination of the teachings of the references that would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art to use the Long conveyor belt **88** to, in some unspecified manner, convert the Conte pivot head **7** and pivot arm **21** into a "sole means for holding and moving respectively the leading and trailing cable-ends of the cable-length from said cutting and stripping station and in position for processing by said at least one cable-end processing station" as recited in Claim 17, nor the "sole means for moving the leading and trailing cable-ends from said cutting and stripping

station to said crimping presses and away from said crimping presses" as recited in Claim 26.

The Examiner has not explained how to modify Conte with Long to provide a sole means for holding and moving respectively the leading and trailing cable-ends of the cable length. Obviously the Long conveyor belt 88 can't replace the Conte swiveling arm and gripper 7 and pivot arm 21 with gripping units 19, 20 since the belt 88 can't hold the cable ends in position for processing by the cable-end processing station as recited in Applicant's claims. Furthermore, the Long belt 88 carries the first and second ends 72, 78 of the cable length 66 simultaneously. In contrast, Applicant's claims recite that the cable ends are held in sequence.

Thus, there is no combination of Conte and Long that shows or suggests the invention recited in Applicant's Claims 17-32 and 34.

In view of the above arguments, Applicant believes that the claims of record now define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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